

PBS MacNEIL/LEHRER  
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CONGRESS/  
SALVADORAN AID

LEHRER: President Reagan said in a written today, his Central American aid package with a \$117 million in military aid to El Salvador is vitally urgent. He urged Congress to authorize it without further delay. But since Congress breaks for it's summer recess tomorrow that doesn't leave much time. And the division between the House and Senate on the El Salvador issue is a wide one. The House having passed a version with the special \$117 million out, last night the Senate passing one with it in. Judy Woodruff reports on the administration's efforts to win final passage and the debate about it. Judy.

WOODRUFF: Jim, a joint House-Senate conference committee is just now sitting down to work to resolve the issue. And in preparation for that the administration has pulled out all the stops to help make the case that El Salvador needs extra military aid. The U.S. Ambassador to Salvador, Thomas Pickering, and the top U.S. general in Central America, Paul Gorman, have both been up on Capitol Hill, trying to persuade legislators that the Salvadoran government is fighting rebels armed by Nicaragua. To back up those contentions, the State Department yesterday released, for the first time publicly, what it has been talking about for months privately. Intelligence films, taken at night, by planes using night-seeing photographic equipment. As one example, on the night of July 10, U.S. intelligence agents, flying in a AC-130 aircraft, photographed a large shrimp boat and two small boats 10 miles off the coast of El Salvador. The videotape and narration of that incident that we will show you now were prepared by the State Department. UNIDENTIFIED ANNOUNCER: You are now observing the shrimper and the two boats on low-light television. The shrimper, which is 75 feet in length, has a smaller boat in tow. It has it's outriggers extended on both sides, as if to give the appearance of fishing. It is running with lights on, also to avoid suspicion. The two smaller boats, both 18 feet in length, have square-shaped sterns. It is likely that the shrimper had completed a transfer of material to the two 18 foot boats just prior to the arrival of the \*'bill kirk.' When the shrimper realized that the \*'bill kirk' aircraft was overhead, it began to move away from the smaller boats in a southwesterly direction, towards open seas. The shrimper quickly attained high speed, again, not indicative of normal shrimping procedure. For the time being, the two 18-foot boats remained in place. Upon the arrival of the \*'bill kirk', the two boats pushed apart and began to move toward the Salvadoran coast. The boats quickly attained high speed, estimated at between 20 and 25 knots. On three occasions during the boat's movement toward shore one of the boats stopped, apparently to check

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PBS MACNEIL/LEHRER NEWSHOUR  
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CENTRAL AMERICA/ \* \* \* \*  
U.S. AID

LEHRER: Yes, the ongoing dispute over what and when the CIA told Congress about mining Nicaragua's harbors continued today as it has for many days. Senate Majority Leader Howard Baker held a press conference in Tokyo, Japan, to defend the intelligence agency. He said the CIA briefed the Senate Intelligence Committee three times about the mining operation. Sunday, the Democratic vice chairman of the committee, Daniel Moynihan of New York, resigned from the panel, protesting what he said was the CIA's failure to do so. Baker said committee members may not have been briefed as thoroughly as possible, but they were told. There was a report late this afternoon about an earlier CIA-backed covert action in Nicaragua about which Congress allegedly was also not properly informed. Judy Woodruff takes the story from there. Judy?

WOODRUFF: Jim, last October, storage tanks at the Nicaraguan port of Corinto were destroyed in a sabotage raid, sending some 3.2 million gallons of fuel up in flames. Today, it was reported in Washington that the raid was a CIA operation controlled by American agents based on a ship off the Nicaraguan coast. According to the Associated Press, Congress did not learn of the CIA's involvement until Mar. 30, five months after the raid. This report joins the controversy in progress over the CIA's role in the mining of Nicaragua's ports. The mining has already raise the question, what should the CIA be telling Congress about its covert activities? For more on that, we turn to two CIA veterans, former director William Colby, who headed the agency from 1973 to 1976, and former deputy director Ray Cline, who served in the Kennedy and Johnson administrations. Mr. Cline, we saw in the Associated Press report today that sources, administration sources, said that members of the Senate Intelligence Committee had not been told about this latest sabotage incident, just as they had not been adequately informed about the mining. Should they have been told? RAY CLINE (Former CIA Deputy Director): Uh, my view is that the CIA should tell the oversight committees about the programs to carry out U.S. policies covertly. I don't think it is necessary to brief the congressmen on every detail. It would be impossible to do so.

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